AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method for producing a rubber-like elastic article, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

hydrogenating natural polyisoprenoid in the state of latex with hydrogen in the presence of a ~~rhodium complex~~ hydrogenation catalyst in water to obtain a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid, and

subjecting a rubber composition comprising said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid having a degree of hydrogenation of 95% or more or a modified product thereof to molding/forming accompanied by vulcanization,

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid has a weight-average molecular weight of 83×10^4 or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 2.0 or more,

wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of a homogenous catalyst and a heterogeneous catalyst,

wherein the homogenous catalyst is selected from the group consisting of metal salts and metal-containing ionic compounds;

wherein said metal salts and metal-containing ionic compounds are selected from the group consisting of nickel carbonate-trialkylaluminum, palladium chloride, and palladium acetate, and

wherein the heterogeneous catalyst is a solid catalyst having $Pd/CaCO_3$ or Pd/C.

8-25. (Cancelled)

26. **(Currently Amended)** A rubber-like or rubber-like-material-containing article, which is a resin modifier comprising a rubber-like polymer that is a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid having a degree of hydrogenation of 95% or more, or a modified product thereof,

wherein said rubber-like polymer is a polymer which is the reaction product of a natural polyisoprenoid with hydrogen in the presence of a rhodium complex hydrogenation catalyst in water,

wherein said rubber-like polymer has a weight-average molecular weight of 90 x 10^4 or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 3.0 or more, [[and]]

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is an ingredient in modified lattices obtained by hydrogenating natural polyisoprenoid in the state of latex, and

wherein the article has a glass transition temperature of at least -43°C.

27. (Previously Presented) A resin composition comprising a resin and the rubber-like or rubber-like-material-containing article according to claim 26 as a resin modifier.

28. (Previously Presented) The resin composition of claim 27, comprising 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of the resin modifier per 100 parts by weight of the resin.

29. (Previously Presented) A molded article made from the resin composition of claim 27.

30. (**Currently Amended**) A method for producing a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid latex or a modified product thereof, comprising:

hydrogenating natural polyisoprenoid in the state of latex in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst in water to obtain a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid, and

subjecting a rubber composition comprising said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid having a degree of hydrogenation of 50% or more or a modified product thereof to molding/forming accompanied by a natural vulcanization,

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid latex has a weight-average molecular weight of 60 x 10^4 or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 2.0 or more,

wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of a homogeneous catalyst and a heterogeneous catalyst,

wherein the homogeneous catalyst is selected from the group consisting of metal salts and metal-containing ionic compounds;

wherein said metal salts and metal-containing ionic compounds are selected from the group consisting of nickel carbonate-trialkylaluminum, palladium chloride, and palladium acetate, and

wherein the heterogeneous catalyst is a solid catalyst having $Pd/CaCO_3$ or Pd/C.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the natural polyisoprenoid latex is a latex derived from *Hevea brasiliensis*, *Ficus elastica*, *Eucommia ulmoides*, or fungus belonging to the genus *Lactarius*.

32. **(Cancelled)**

33. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a rubber-like elastic article according to claim 7, wherein the hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid has a weight-average molecular weight of 90×10^4 or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 3.0 or more.

34. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid latex or a modified product thereof according to claim 30, wherein the hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid has a weight-average molecular weight of 90×10^4 or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 3.0 or more.

35. **(New)** The method for producing a rubber-like elastic article according to claim 7, wherein the article has a glass transition temperature of at least -43°C.

36. **(New)** The method for producing a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid latex or a modified product thereof according to claim 30, wherein the hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid latex or the modified product thereof has a glass transition temperature of at least -43°C.